

Amendment

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0006] Additionally, a method of providing access to authenticated electronic documents over a network is disclosed. The method includes the steps of: 1) Initializing a database by storing indexed information for identifying and authenticating the electronic documents therein; 2) Receiving a user request for an electronic document; 3) Searching for and retrieving information for identifying and authenticating the requested document from the database; 4) Accessing the network and retrieving the content of the requested document; 5) Calculating a checksum or sum value for the content of the retrieved document; 6) Comparing the sum value calculated for the retrieved document with the authenticating information retrieved from the database for the particular document; 7) Determining if the document is authentic; 8) Returning the contents of the document to the user if the contents are determined authentic; 9) Returning a refusal ~~to the~~ to the user if the content of the retrieved document is not authentic or if the requested document is not indexed in the database; and 10) Updating the database accordingly with the status of the authenticity of the electronic document. The method according to the present invention allows a user to access authenticated electronic documents contained on a computer network.

[0020] Alternatively, a two-pass method for calculating the checksum uses predetermine seed numbers and includes the steps of a) retrieving indexed seed numbers for the document from database 24; b) traversing a forward pass of the data stream of the content of the retrieved document and calculating a first value for each position in said data stream using the seed numbers; c) traversing a reverse pass of the data stream of the content of the retrieved document and calculating a second value for each position in the data stream using the seed numbers; and d) summing the first value and second values.